

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176961
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, IS, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS BACKGROUNDER

1. I WILL BE MEETING WITH ISRAELI CORRESPONDENTS IN
WASHINGTON ON BACKGROUND THURSDAY MORNING AND WILL WIRE
YOU A TRANSCRIPT OF RELEVANT EXCHANGES LATER IN THE DAY.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR EARLIER REPORT ABOUT STORIES
ON OUR SUPPOSED ROLE IN HARDENING EGYPTIAN POSITION, I
INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IN A SPEECH I DELIVERED
JULY 11 TO THE AMERICAN ARAB ASSOCIATION FOR COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY IN NEW YORK: "IT IS ESSENTIAL, IN OUR VIEW, THAT
NEGOTIATIONS HAVE A CHANCE TO SUCCEED. ALL OF OUR EFFORTS
WITH THE NEGOTIATING PARTIES HAVE CONCENTRATED ON FINDING
WAYS TO AVOID IMPASSE AND TO KEEP THE NEGOTIATIONS MOVING.
NO AMERICAN INTEREST CAN BE SERVED BY ANY OTHER APPROACH.
THERE HAVE BEEN CHARGES IN THE PRESS IN THE LAST FEW
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DAYS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ENCOURAGED EGYPT TO HARDEN
ITS POSITION SO AS TO PRODUCE AN EARLY DEADLOCK IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.
EVERY AMERICAN INVOLVED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS FROM THE
PRESIDENT DOWN RECOGNIZES THE CLEAR U.S. INTEREST IN
KEEPING THE NEGOTIATIONS GOING. FROM TIME TO TIME WE MAY
AGAIN, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST, SUGGEST WAYS OF BREAKING

DEADLOCKS AND FINDING NEW COMMON GROUND. SUCH IDEAS, IF SUGGESTED, WILL GROW OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, AND THEY WILL BE PUT FORWARD WITH A HOPE OF ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS." THE TEXT OF THIS SPEECH WAS ESSENTIALLY THAT OF MY STATEMENT TO THE HAMILTON SUBCOMMITTEE WITH ABOVE AND A FEW OTHER POINTS ADDED. SINCE NO TEXTS WERE DISTRIBUTED, THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE PRESS COVERAGE, BUT YOU COULD CITE THIS IF IT WERE USEFUL TO YOU. I WILL USE IT WITH THE ISRAELIS HERE IF THE OCCASION ARISES.

CHRISTOPHER

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